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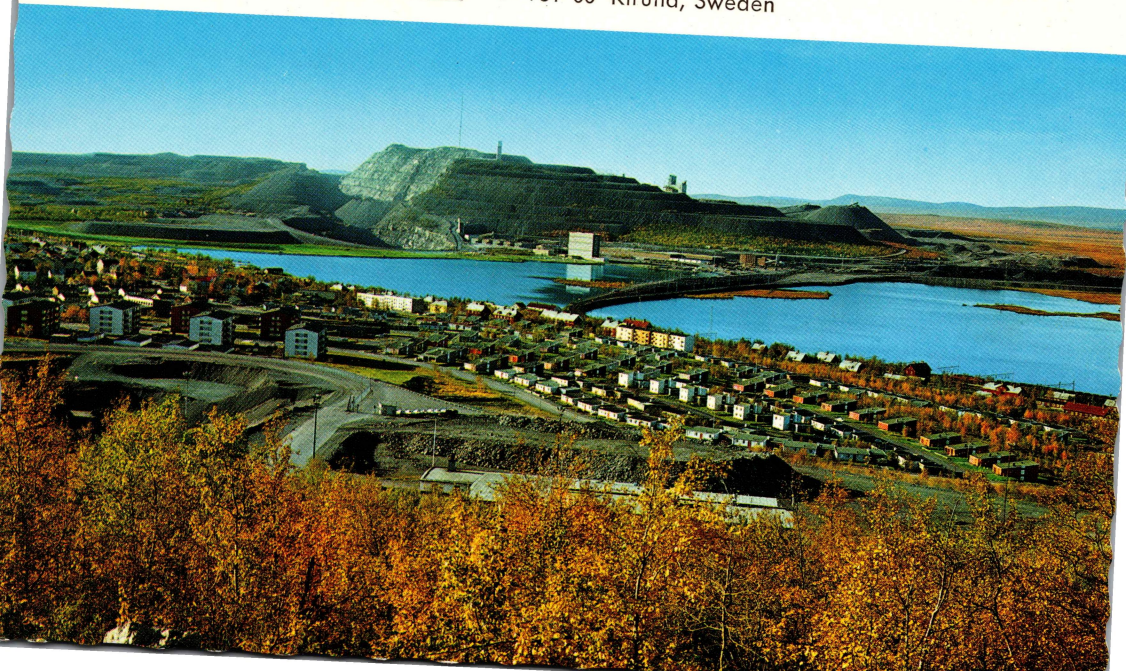

KIRUNA LAPPLAND SWEDEN

Kiruna is the world's largest city in area. The name Kiruna is Lappish and means "mountain grouse". The city is Sweden's most northerly, lying a hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle on the same latitude as the tundras of Alaska and Siberia. The built-up area between the two mountains of Iron-ore, Kiirunavaara and Luossavaara, makes up the central part of this remarkable city and is therefore called Kiruna C. The total population of the city of Kiruna in 1972 is about 30.000. Most of Kiruna's vast area consists of wilderness-forests, swamps and mountains with rivers and lakes teeming with fish. The mountainous areas of the west contain some of the most famous natural scenery in the country, including the Mere of Torne, the Valley of Vistas and Mount Kebnekaise, the highest in Sweden.

THE MIDNIGHT SUN is the great miracle of this northernmost part of the country. For six weeks in the summer there is uninterrupted daylight, and if it is not cloudy you can witness the fascinating drama when the sun begins to go up again without having ever dropped below the horizon. You can see the midnight sun in Kiruna C from May 31 to July 14. In contrast to this prodigality of light during the summer, the sun disappears entirely for several weeks around the winter solstice. But then you can instead experience the Aurora Borealis of Lappland; which brightens the whole firmament with flaming curtains of light.

KIRUNA, the mining town, has had a short but remarkable history. In 1890 the Luossavaara—Kiirunavaara Company, Inc. was founded, and the ore railway to Narvik was inaugrated in 1903. From the first collection of primitive huts for engineers and laborers' barracks in the wilderness around lake Luossajärvi, Kiruna C has developed into a modern community with about 20.000 inhabitants. This unique city, located between 1500 and 1800 feet above sea level just below the timber line, has a church contructed like a large Lappish hut and a city park filled with mountain birches, from which you can, in clear weather see the peaks of Kebnekaise. The ore in Kiruna consists of a slab about 100 yards thick and about three miles long going vertically into the earth to a depth of a mile. It is estimated that this contains about 2,5 billion tons of ore, which ought to last a couple of hundred years. Kiirunavaara closed its open pit in 1960 and then became the biggest underground-mine in the world. In summer it can be visited by bus.

Information about hotels, mountain stations, cabins and Lapp huts, hiking trails, private rooms, hostels and camping places is available at the tourist associations and travel bureaus, as well as directly from the Tourist Committee of the City of Kiruna.

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